

Letters From The People

PROHIBITION DOES PROHIBIT.

Editor Advertiser:—What nonsense to hear that prohibition does not prohibit the sale of liquor. The worst kind of a lie sometimes is that which looks most like the truth. And to hear that prohibition does not stop the sale of liquor is the worse kind of a lie because to some people it looks most like the truth.

To hear that prohibition in these islands would not stop the sale of liquor should be an insult to the police of this city. When it is positively proven that liquor is one of the causes of this fine race of people dying out, not only of the Hawaiian Islands but of the whole South Seas, it should be the pride of every policeman in Honolulu to make this city so dry once prohibition is made a law, that the very roof of dram-holes will cry out vengeance.

If you think prohibition does not stop the sale of liquor go to Burlington, Vermont, or Portland, Maine. How did Burlington, Vermont, stop the sale of liquor? It was Doctor Buckham, president of the University of Vermont, who did it. How did he accomplish this? By spending his own money hiring detectives to watch things. Now watch the results. Today the running expenses of the county of Chittenden without the saloons is one-fourth what it was with the saloons. And today also the jail of Burlington is nearly empty when it was crowded while the saloons were open. If you want illustrations of this kind visit every prohibition town in the United States. You know the crimes committed under the influence of liquor. I will stop right here on this point.

Here is the American nation, which gives the best of its manhood to the navy for the protection of these islands. No man can enter the navy nowadays without good credentials of excellent character. And what do you do when they visit here? You make them a disgrace with your "rot gut" whisky.

Some will say: "We did not coax them to drink." Is it not human nature for men away from home and on restraint for weeks on board ships of the navy to fall in your dirty "pit falls" as long as they are open and get drunk? You will say they will spend their money in worse places. Did you ever hear that two wrongs made one right? Do you know enough to understand this?

If the outside world would do as much for the protection of its young men as the discipline of the navy does for its bluejackets every man in the service would be regarded as a gentleman. Collectively the man in uniform is respected as a matter of national feeling; individually he is not respected as much as he should be and the saloons in port cities and the want of better places of entertainment ashore are largely responsible for that.

One hears the word liberty thrown in as an excuse for the open saloons. What right have we to dictate to a person what he should put into his mouth? On the same line of reasoning what right have we to examine food on the public market to see if it will cause ptomaine poisoning or not? If liberty means the right of open saloons and the nonrestraint of nature on the part of men, then I have a right to say that because a man has two legs and a goose has two legs therefore a man is a goose. What is logical to some is not always good reasoning.

Prohibition anywhere does not mean the absolute impossibility of "blind pigs" to get liquor in some way. Of the two evils, namely selling liquor or the sly and the open saloons it means to choose the lesser of the two evils with the open saloons.

We are bound to hear a lot of nonsense in favor of saloons, and perhaps in the sight of some I am no wiser, but if the surface of the earth were all level the country would not be half so picturesque nor so interesting. So we must be thankful to those on the opposite side of this question for making life so interesting in Honolulu just now. A great many of them know that liquor is a curse, but a lawyer who wants to win his case for his client, even though the lawyer knows in his heart that his case is a rotten one, will continue in spite of vengeance, judge and jury to make white appear as white as newly fallen snow. And so are the saloonkeepers and their friends.

Just look at Germany today. You say they are big drinkers of beer and it does them no harm. Well, if it does them no harm why is it that many towns in Germany are now begging for prohibition? Read the papers.

This should be a fight to a finish against the saloons. People must be educated on the subject by more public lectures, and heart to heart talks. Once you know you are right go ahead. There is no one so blind as he who will not see. But keep on the good work. A few vital points well put forth should be published in a neat attractive way in posters and distributed broadcast, along with public lectures on the subject.

In conclusion I will say that if one man like Doctor Buckham of the University of Vermont, at least while I was there a student, can stop the sale of liquor for the sake of college students, then why can't the millions of Honolulu hire detectives to prove to the world once more that prohibition does prohibit the sale of liquor, not only for the sake of the natives, but for that of the navy men who are the strength of a nation?

If a bluejacket is discovered with liquor on board his ship, no matter if he receives fifty or one hundred dollars per month, as some do, the discipline of the navy is such for the protection of the men and the nation that he will forfeit three months' pay and get one month in the brig. The splendor of discipline of the United States Navy in this direction is most worthy of imitation. Make the fine for selling liquor under prohibition so high it will make the seller tremble. The fine will more than pay the hiring of honest detectives. A few will say that honest men can't be hired in this. Such people talk their own character. Closed saloons will not lessen the number of visitors coming here. Tourists as a rule carry their own best brands. Right living in a city never made lesser progress. Men who should leave the city because of closed saloons Honolulu can well do without.

A CITIZEN.

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SOCIETY NOTES.

Call.—Miss Lillian Van Vorst will entertain a group of girls at the luncheon that she will give next Wednesday when Miss Lurline Matson, one of the popular debutantes of the season, will be the guest. The luncheon will be given at the home of the hostess in Vallejo street. Among the girls who have received cards for the occasion are: Misses Agnes Tillmann, Olive Wheeler, Edna Norman, Amy Bowles, Miriam McNear, Ruth Boerick, Dorothy Boerick, Dolly MacGavin, Anna Weller, Florence Braverman, Florence Cluff, Dorothy Churchill, Meta McMahon, Anna Birmingham, Edith Metcalfe, Amelia Simpson, Kathleen Farrell, Elva de Pae, Dorothy Van Sickle, Mildred Salter, Mrs. Curtis Redfern.

Call.—Mrs. Henry Foster Dutton entertained several friends at tea yesterday afternoon in the Laurel court at the Fairmont.

S. F. Ballerina.—Lieutenant Fitzhugh Lee, Minnijerode's many California friends are congratulating him upon the unusual distinction that has recently been conferred upon him by a higher officer, no less a person than General William F. Durval, who is in command of the Philippine division. He mentions Lieutenant Minnijerode as having distinguished himself by meritorious conduct in the service in that he exhibited bravery and presence of mind

in going to the rescue of certain drowning men at Iloilo.

Lieutenant Minnijerode is closely related to James Ellis Tucker and several other San Franciscans.

Argument.—Major Joan K. Cree, Coast Artillery Corps, U. S. A., is relieved of command of Fort Riger, Hawaii, and of the artillery district of Honolulu, and upon his relief from the General Hospital, Presidio of San Francisco, will report to the commanding officer, Presidio of San Francisco, for duty.

Argument.—Captain Edward J. Timberlake, Coast Artillery Corps, U. S. A., is relieved from the Forty-seventh Company and placed on the unassigned list and ordered to proceed to Fort Riger, Honolulu, and assume command at that post and of the artillery district of Honolulu.

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